



TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Executive Director's Report

DECEMBER 2014

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Evins Celebrates Feast of Sharing

Saturday morning, Nov. 15, began early for Esteban Sanchez, a volunteer at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, as he traveled to Brownsville and back to Evins (130 miles round trip) to pick up a family of six so that they could attend the "Feast of Sharing" sponsored by the Evins Volunteer Council and several ministries and supporters of the facility.

"We found out during one of our bible studies that the family could not attend because they had no transportation. So, as a group, we decided that we would help out this family," Mr. Sanchez said.

In addition they found out that the family was staying in a temporary shelter because of cold weather and did not have a mattress at home so they bought them a mattress set and clothing. Once back at Evins, the family was able to enjoy a pre-Thanksgiving meal prepared by TJJD volunteers from all over the Rio Grande Valley.

Approximately 56 youths were visited by family members at the facility that day. Marissa Flores, Family Coordinator, said, "We had 177 family members show up for the event and it was a very big success." Fidel Garcia, Community Relations Coordinator, agreed with Ms. Flores, "When you see family positively blending in together with their child or grandma and grandpa enjoying a game

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of checkers, spending quality time—that to me tells me that the event was successful.”

Youth who did not have family attend were matched to volunteers for fellowship during the meal. Most of the volunteers sitting with the youth were students with Alpha Phi Sigma and the Criminal Justice Student Association at the University of Texas-RGV. Most of them are seniors graduating next month or in May 2015.

“(The volunteers) are adults that will be working in the criminal justice system and some of them will be working right here at Evins.” Garcia said. “It is good that they get this exposure and experience firsthand.”

Volunteer Pricilla Reyes, who wants to be a parole officer upon graduation, said, “At first it was a little intimidating, not knowing what to expect, but once we sat down to eat and got into a dialogue it was all good. It is sad that they don’t have anyone visiting with them during this time of the year.”

More than 100 volunteers were involved to help serve/fellowship, clean up during the event and to make the event possible. In total 29 turkeys were cooked by cafeteria personnel and served by volunteers with a side dish of sweet corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, bread, a slice of pumpkin pie and soft drink. The Catholic Dioceses of Brownsville and First Baptist Church of Edinburg, along with others, were very instrumental in making this event possible through donations. ■





Victory Field Reunion

On November 8, 2014, Victory Field Correctional Academy (formerly of the Texas Youth Commission) held a reunion for the staff and volunteers who worked at the facility. The reunion was held in Vernon and was put together by Misti Jacobs, former Volunteer Coordinator, and Deidre Reece, former Director of Security and currently Manager of Operations at Gainesville State School. A big thanks goes to Gainesville State School and McFadden Ranch as many of the employees transferred to these facilities and others and were allowed time off to attend the reunion.

It was a time to renew friendships and to share memories of the close knit TYC/TJJD family. Staff and volunteers were treated to a barbeque dinner cooked by staff and led by former Assistant Superintendent Wallace Brown and Johnny Reece, former JCO VI and current JCO VI at Gainesville State School. Donald Brooks, Jr., former Superintendent and current Superintendent of Evins Regional Juvenile Center, was the keynote speaker. This was followed by a dance, picture taking and fellowship. Time was spent remembering those staff who have passed away since the closure. The group decided that they would do this again in two years and left with fond memories of the reunion and the lives that were touched. ■



San Antonio Project Connect Thanks Parents

On October 21, 2014, City Year in collaboration with Project Connect sponsored a Curbside Breakfast at Ed White Middle School in San Antonio in order to “Thank Parents” for getting their children to school on time. As the parents drove up they received a hot cup of coffee, bottled water and a bagel.

Project Connect is a collaborative truancy prevention program that involves four partner entities -- the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, Communities in Schools, Southwest Key Family Keys Program, and the Northeast Independent School District. Project Connect targets up to 400 children ages 6 thru 17 who are not currently under juvenile justice supervision, and who are at an increased risk of delinquency, truancy, dropping out of school or referral to the juvenile justice system. ■



Willoughby House Providing Vocational Training

Willoughby House has been working closely with the Community Learning Center, Inc. to provide their 18-year-old youth with vocational training. CLC, Inc. is an organization that collaborates with Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County to provide vocational training through funds provided by the Department of Labor. Willoughby House has two youth currently participating in the forklift and welding programs and another youth recently enrolled in the culinary program.

When asked how the training program has impacted his life, youth AR said, “Working at CLC is like a dream come true. I get to do what I love the most, like construction, forklift and welding. It’s like God has given me a second chance to change my life.”

Youth DW also said, “It is a great opportunity to be with the Community Learning Center. I love the work that we do. We do construction, welding and you get a forklift license.”

In addition to the training, the youth have also participated

in Habitat for Humanity and were able to utilize the construction skills they’ve learned.

“This has been a great community partnership, with CLC, Inc.,” stated Diane Eunice, Superintendent. “It has definitely been a great opportunity for our youth to gain marketable skills that will start them on a career path that can take them far and decrease their chances of returning to TJJD.” ■

Giddings Youth Participate in Statewide Student Council

On October 22, 2014, three youth from the Giddings State School/Lone Star High School SE attended the Texas Association of Student Council District 14 Convention, a gathering of more than 650 students. Giddings students eventually overcame their shyness and participated with the other youth, learning how to formally open a meeting and conduct business using Roberts Rules of Order.

Students were randomly placed into 12 groups. Every group went to different stations where they shared activities they had done the previous year and what activities they have planned for this year. TJJD youth were able to share how they had financially helped the local youth center and the senior citizen center. They shared how they will start to work on a National Agenda by helping with the Ebola crisis.

During lunch, the Giddings youth were able to interact with youth from two other school districts. They had a very good time listening to music and talking. This association with other youth helped enhance the confidence of these young men. The experience and lessons learned were shared with others at the Giddings campus upon the youth’s return. ■



Red White and You

Staff at Evins Regional Juvenile Center recently participated in Operation Workforce sponsored by the Texas Workforce Commission. The hiring event entitled “Hiring Red, White and You!” connects Texas veterans and their spouses with Texas employers who value the experience, discipline and other exceptional qualities inherent with a military background.

Pictured left to right from Evins: Luther Taliaferro, Assistant Superintendent of Education (central office) TJJD, Evins staff, Yadira Mendoza, JCO V, Eduardo Garza, Assistant Superintendent, and Leroy Diaz, JCO VI. Not pictured is Eldon Lopez, Dorm Supervisor. ■

State Employee Charitable Contributions Increase Dramatically

Despite having fewer employees than last year, TJJD had a higher number of participants and a higher pledge total in the State Employees Charitable Campaign in 2014. Pledges totaled \$73,452 (up from \$57,078 in 2013), the per capita gift amount totaled \$29.14 (\$23.36 in 2013), payroll givers totaled 464 (360 in 2013), and the number of leadership givers rose to 32 (18 in 2013).

In short, far more employees gave way more money in more meaningful ways! Congratulations to Tammy Holland, who leads this employee effort every year and always finds ways to make participation fun. Accolades also go to each of the campaign coordinators throughout the agency. Your efforts will mean more people in true need will receive assistance in 2015. ■

TJJD Facility/Program	Contributions	Partic Rate	Per Capita Gift	Leadership Givers (+\$500)
CENTRAL OFFICE	\$25,983.08	47%	\$110.57	13
DISTRICT OFFICE				
Houston Parole Office	\$1,311.00	71%	\$62.43	0
San Antonio and Harlingen Parole Office	\$1,186.00	87%	\$79.07	0
Dallas Parole Office, Tyler DO	\$745.04	73%	\$67.73	0
Fort Worth Parole Office	\$363.00	46%	\$27.92	0
Amarillo, Midland, and Lubbock Parole Offices	\$120.00	60%	\$24.00	0
HALFWAY HOUSES				
Ayres House	\$2,804.00	50%	\$ 40.20	1
McFadden Ranch	\$2,319.00	98%	\$51.53	0
Schaeffer House and El Paso Parole	\$1,164.00	87%	\$50.61	0
Willoughby House	\$1,073.00	91%	\$48.77	0
Cottrell House	\$960.00	38%	\$45.71	1
Tamayo House	\$925.00	55%	\$42.05	0
York Halfway House	\$384.00	20%	\$19.20	0
INSTITUTIONS				
McLennan County Complex	\$10,985.80	8%	\$16.67	8
Giddings State School	\$7,175.00	13%	\$18.78	2
Gainesville State School	\$6,240.00	9%	\$17.24	2
Evins Regional Juvenile Center	\$5,222.08	10%	\$18.72	3
Ron Jackson and Halfway House	\$4,492.00	8%	\$12.27	2
2014 Grand Totals	\$73,452.00	18%	\$29.14	32



"Think Pink" at Willoughby House

The First Annual "Think Pink Day" was held at Willoughby House on October 22, 2014. Special Guest Speakers were Diana Goodwin, Parole Supervisor for Fort Worth District Office, Nancy Michellin, and Michelle Scheidegg.

Ms. Goodwin presented a very important message to the young men on the statistics of females and males with breast cancer. Ms. Goodwin expressed that even though breast cancer mortality rates have decreased over time, current statistics indicate that about one in eight women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of a lifetime. The most significant risk factors for breast cancer are being a woman and growing older. Men are not exempt either; their lifetime risk is about 1 in 1,000.

Ms. Michellin and Ms. Scheidegg also shared their moving experiences and journey along with their determination to fight back. Pink and black wristlets were given to the youth with the inscription "Real Men Wear Pink." Other guests included visitors from MHMR of Tarrant County, members of the Fort Worth Volunteer Council, including Community & Relations Coordinator, Denise Caldwell, Dallas District Office staff and Cottrell House staff.

Ms. Goodwin was asked to summarize why she was inspired to speak at this event. She said, "Since being diagnosed with breast cancer in June of 2011, I have spent many hours talking with both males and females about breast cancer screening, prevention, treatment, and healthy lifestyles. I found out in October of 2011 that I carry the gene mutation that increases the risk for breast cancer (BRCA1). That

knowledge only increased my desire to educate both the community and my family about breast cancer and hereditary breast cancer. I met my friend, Nancy Michellin, during this journey. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in December 2011 and spends a lot of her time teaching about eating right and physical fitness. Both of us volunteer at the Bluebonnet Retreat twice a year. This is a three-day camp for adult survivors of cancer.

“Nancy and I both tend to talk to audiences of mostly women. We decided that speaking to teenage boys was a challenge that we were willing to take. The simple fact is that those teenage boys will be affected by breast cancer at some point in time in their life – whether it is their mother, sister, aunt, girlfriend or wife. We felt it was important for them to know the importance of breast cancer awareness month and organizations out there that can help.” ■



Ericka Barrera (left), Jarvis Soileau, and Miss Neka from tha1radio.com

Bowl-A-Thon Raises Money For San Antonio and Austin Youth

On October 11, 2014, the Volunteer Council for Texas Youth in San Antonio achieved a milestone by celebrating their 20th annual “Spare Some Time for TX Youth” Bowl-a-thon. This event aids the council’s mission to support TJJD youth in the San Antonio/Austin area.

This year’s event included a live radio remote with Ms. Neka from www.tha1radio.com. Community Resources Coordinator Jarvis Soileau raffled off prizes throughout the event with special awards for team and individual categories at the conclusion of the event. Prizes were donated by the San Antonio Spurs, Coach America, San Antonio Missions, SeaWorld, Fiesta Texas, and others. Many of the recipients of these great prizes were from some of our faithful sponsors such as SA Northwest Civil & Social Club, San Antonio Fighting Back, My Friend’s House, Frost Bank, Security Service FCU, Select FCU, and many more.

Everyone had a wonderful time while raising \$2,400 to support Texas youth in San Antonio and Austin. ■

Employees Receiving Tenure Awards

TJJD would like to recognize the following employees who have received a tenure award since October 2014. On behalf of the agency, we extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and service to the State of Texas.

November 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
Jeannette E. Lepe	<i>Austin (Internal Audit)</i>
Julius B. Orimolade	<i>Cottrell HWH</i>
Michael D. Denney	<i>Gainesville</i>
Joselyn D. Hightower	<i>Giddings</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Kimberly T. McNeil	<i>Fort Worth District Office</i>
Juanita S. Brown	<i>McFadden Ranch</i>
Alysia J. Fain	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Stacey L. Swan	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Bobby J. Dillard	<i>McLennan Phoenix</i>
Otha A. Payne	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Lisel M. Ramirez	<i>Tamayo HWH</i>
Melissa B. Johnson	<i>Willoughby HWH</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Christopher H. Simani	<i>Austin (Information Technology)</i>
Cory L. Applewhite	<i>Austin (Information Technology)</i>
Lesly A. Jacobs	<i>Austin (General Counsel)</i>
Phyllis E. Giambrone	<i>Austin (State Programs & Facilities)</i>
Sarita Kovar	<i>Giddings</i>
Teresa E. Perez	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Vicki L. Koen	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Virginia F. Brown	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Preston Porter	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Yolanda J. Kirven	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Bobby R. Medlock	<i>Fort Worth District Office</i>
Errol J. Ramsey	<i>Amarillo Parole Office</i>
Beverly J. Ratzlaff	<i>Austin (Information Technology)</i>
Andra W. Latham	<i>Giddings</i>
Thurman L. Sims	<i>Giddings</i>
Carla A. Coleman-Raindle	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Chevolette Denman	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Mary A. Johnson	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Donald R. Davis	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Ester M. Williams	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Patrick Williams	<i>San Antonio District Office</i>
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THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Bobbie S. Wells	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
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FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Karen E. Siegmund	<i>Giddings</i>
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December 2014

FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

NAME	LOCATION/CENTRAL OFFICE DIVISION
April D. Williams	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Barbara J. Blackstock	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Carlos Garcia	<i>Tamayo HWH</i>
Charles E. Bailey	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Eddie T. Cantu	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Eric R. Olson	<i>Giddings</i>
Lawrence D. Henderson	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Myriam R. McWhorter	<i>Evins</i>
Nina R. Roberts	<i>Giddings</i>
Ronda R. Anderson	<i>Gainesville</i>
Susan W. Gunn	<i>Ron Jackson</i>

TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Ashley L. Kintzer	<i>Austin (General Counsel)</i>
Dashone P. Johnson	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Ernest L. Akers	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Gerry W. Rosier	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Julius J. Toman	<i>Giddings</i>
Rodrigo A. Perez	<i>Cottrell HWH</i>
Tommy L. Kelly	<i>Gainesville</i>
Walter H. Henry	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Ana Maria Matei	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Antoinette Y. Thomas	<i>Giddings</i>
David D. Sancillo	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Fidel F. Garcia	<i>Evins</i>
Maria D. Rangel	<i>Giddings</i>
McKella S. Horton	<i>McLennan RTC</i>
Nancy L. Parker	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Oliver E. Miles	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>
Shande R. Vaughan	<i>McLennan RTC</i>

TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Belinda Castillo	<i>Austin (General Counsel)</i>
Larry C. Barham	<i>Corsicana</i>
Rita D. Walker	<i>Austin (Human Resources)</i>

TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Jonathan W. Desemar	<i>Ron Jackson</i>
Michael R. Bickford	<i>Gainesville</i>
Sylvia L. Steele	<i>McLennan CSJCF</i>

THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Allen E. Wallace	<i>Austin (Ombudsman Office)</i>
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FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Carolyn B. Jones	<i>Giddings</i>
Marilyn Alexander	<i>Giddings</i>